

ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT  
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LEBANON/>JENNINGS: And now the Middle East. The terrorist threat <  
>TERRORISM>in Beirut has by no means diminished. All the previous  
attacks on Americans have come from the ground, from  
sniper fire to the truck bombings. As ABC's John McWethy  
reports tonight, American intelligence is now concerned  
about a potential threat from the air.

MCWETHY: U.S. intelligence sources say in the last few  
months, Moslem fundamentalists, believed to be Iranian,  
have attempted to rent, buy and steal small planes in  
Cyprus, an island just 70 miles off the coast of Lebanon.  
Officials say as far as they know, none of the attempts  
has been successful. But the incidents underscore the  
continuing war against terrorism and the direction it may  
be heading next. It's a war in which terrorists could and  
probably will strike again at American targets in Lebanon  
and U.S. officials say they are painfully aware the attack  
this time could come from the air. Last year, Iran's  
Ayatollah Khomeini began training some of his younger,  
more fanatic followers to fly small planes in apparent  
preparation for suicide missions. No such airborne

attacks have yet occurred. Though ground security around  
U.S. Embassies is getting tougher, American analysts admit  
they still have no adequate solutions for what to do about  
the airborne threat. They could mount anti-aircraft guns  
and radar on embassy rooftops, but that would make those  
facilities appear even more like armed fortress.  
Officials say at this point that is not an option they're  
willing to try. John McWethy, ABC News, the State  
Department. <